2017 TAEE Conference
Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley, Texas
October 6-8, 2017

Keynote Speaker - Gina LaMotte, Founder & Executive Director
EcoRise Youth Innovations
Welcome!

**Location**
Camp Young Judaea  
121 Camp Young Judaea Road  
Wimberley, TX 78676

Camp Young Judea is located in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, just 40 minutes south of Austin and 1 hour from San Antonio. With 240 acres of natural rolling terrain, five acre lake and a wealth of oak trees, it is the perfect place to hold our 36th Annual conference.

Camp CYJ Website  Map to CYJ

**Lodging**
Camp CYJ offers two on-site lodging options. The Lodge has motel style rooms each with two beds, private bath and linens. You may designate a roommate or TAEE will assign one. There is limited availability for the motel room style option. The second lodging option is in a group room in a cabin with bunk beds and shared bath, linens not provided. Two nights accommodations in the Lodge is $80, two nights in a cabin is $50.

**Meals** are prepared and served in Camp Young Judaea dining hall. The kosher kitchen offers hot meals, salad bar, desserts and beverages.

**What to expect:**
- A mixture of seasoned and new environmental educators  
- Friday short courses, Saturday and Sunday plenary and breakout sessions  
- Lots of socializing and networking with old and new friends  
- Inspiration and immediately applicable tools and ideas.

**What to bring:**
- Water bottle  
- Comfortable clothes/shoes  
- Linens if staying in a cabin  
- Binoculars  
- Silent Auction Item  
- Books for used book sale  
- Curiosity and Enthusiasm  
- Vision for what EE can be
**Silent Auction:**

Educational and gift items will be up for auction. All proceeds support environmental education in Texas. Donations to the Silent Auction are appreciated. Donation receipts are available. Cash, checks and credit card accepted! *Bid often and bid high!*

**Book Sale:**

New and used books will be available for immediate purchase. Please donate environmental books, guides, curriculum, media, etc. to the book sale. Donation receipts are available. Restock your book shelves with new-to-you treasures.

**Donations: TAEE thanks these generous organizations**

San Antonio Water System, [www.saws.org](http://www.saws.org)
Whole Earth Provision Company, [www.wholeearthprovision.com](http://www.wholeearthprovision.com)
Take Care of Texas, [www.takecareoftexas.org](http://www.takecareoftexas.org)
A campaign of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality [www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)

*Additional Supporters of this year’s conference include:*

- [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](http://www.lbjwildcenter.org)
- [Hill Country Science Mill](http://www.science-mill.com)
- [West Cave Outdoor Discovery Center](http://www.westcave.org)

**Social Networking**

The TAEE conference is a great place to network with other environmental educators from across the state.

You are invited to a TAEE Social Reception on Friday night as we gather around the campfire and join in an old fashion sing-a-long. Please bring musical instruments if you would like. Sit around the campfire while we get to know each other and share stories about our own inspiring journeys! After enjoying the campfire, the movie “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic For Our Time” will be shown in the Main meeting room. Come and share non-alcoholic drinks, make s’mores and learn about the life of someone who greatly influenced the field of environmental education.

Saturday evening entertainment in the amphitheater is a lively, interactive concert with musician [Will Parker](http://www.willparker.com), the Animal Maniac.

You are welcome to bring a telescope for some late night star gazing.
Keynote Address

Gina Lamotte, EcoRise Youth Innovations

Founder and Executive Director

Gina LaMotte is a social entrepreneur who is most passionate about unlocking the power and potential of youth as leaders, innovators and visionaries. She is a creative-thinker, a community connector and a tenacious dreamer who thrives when left with a design challenge, a pile of colorful markers and a blank white board.

Gina founded EcoRise Youth Innovations in 2008, with the intent of providing a transformative educational program integrating sustainability, leadership and innovation into the traditional K-12 classroom. Fueled by stubborn idealism, Gina bootstrapped the organization, winning many public awards, attracting hundreds of community partners, and securing millions of earned income and charitable contributions. Within seven years, EcoRise has grown to deliver world-class curricula, training and support to over 700 schools and 1,000 teachers in 26 countries.

Leading up to EcoRise, Gina spent ten years working with innovative educational programs serving youth in Brazil, India, Nepal and Guatemala, as well as Harlem, New York, and Taos, New Mexico. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Global College with an emphasis on experiential education and identity politics.

In 2004, Gina moved to Austin, Texas and pioneered a robust summer and after-school program at a Title One middle school. She also built and led a youth cultural exchange program to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and served as a facilitator and counselor at the Global Youth Peace Summit.

While in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, Gina studied sustainable development and social entrepreneurship and earned a certificate in Non-Profit Studies at the LBJ School for Public Affairs. Gina is a former co-chair of Austin ISD's Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee and has presented extensively at local, regional and national conferences around the topics of green schools, design thinking and sustainability education.
## 2017 TAEE Conference Block Schedule

### Friday, Oct 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 5:30</td>
<td><strong>Field Trips</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 6:00</td>
<td>Registration Begins; Bring Silent Auction Items and books</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td><strong>Main Room</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>Lunch on Your Own – Wimberley is 4 miles south</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:00</td>
<td><strong>Upstairs Room 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 – 3:00</td>
<td><strong>Upstairs Room 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 5:00</td>
<td><strong>Upstairs Room 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 – 9:00</td>
<td>Silent Auction Opens/Vendor Setup</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Campfire &amp; Social, Movie: Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time</td>
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### Saturday, Oct 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 – 8:00</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30</td>
<td>Breakfast; Vendor Set-up - Café Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 10:45</td>
<td>NAAEE Update – remote presentation by Sarah Bodor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TAAE Update</td>
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<td>Recognition of Certification Recipients</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keynote Speaker – Gina Lamotte</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Goin' Buggy; Activities for the Anthropocene; Great Garbage Patch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 12:45</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:00</td>
<td>Starting out Wild Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 – 3:00</td>
<td>Trade nature to Build Connections</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15 – 3:30</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 – 4:30</td>
<td>Inside Out &amp; Outside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 – 5:30</td>
<td>Free Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 – 7:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Entertainment with Will Parker</td>
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### Sunday, Oct 8

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30</td>
<td>Breakfast; Need to be checked out of room by 8:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:30</td>
<td>Nature on the Playground</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:30</td>
<td>Pollination &amp; Beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:30</td>
<td>Loose Parts in Nature Play</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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Schedule

**Friday October 6, 2017**

9:00-5:00  Field Trip – LBJ Wildflower Center – $9.00 for Conference attendees
9:30-6:00  Registration at Camp Young Judaea
10:00-4:00 Field Trip – Science Mill – $7.00 for TAEE Conference attendees
10:00–12:00 Breakout Sessions:
   - Cert 101: How to become a Texas Certified Environmental Educator
   - TAEE Board Meeting
   - Using Transects to Measure Biodiversity
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch on Your Own
1:00 – 2:00 Session:
   - Interested in Becoming a Texas Certified Environmental Educator Application Reviewer for TAEE?
1:00 – 4:00 Short Course:
   - Investigate Carbon and Climate with Project Learning Tree's New E-Unit for Grades 6-8
1:00 or 3:00 Field Trip – Real Ale Brewing Company – Free tap room tours at 1:00 & 3:00. Drinks may be purchased for on-site consumption. Food is not provided or available but you may bring your own snacks. Tap room open 11am – 7pm. Allow travel time as Real Ale is 26 miles west of CYJ.
3:30-5:30 Field Trip – Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center – Private Cave Tour - $12.00 Allow travel time as Westcave is 28 miles north from CYJ.
5:00  Silent Auction Opens
6:00  Dinner
7:00  Campfire Social and movie “Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time”
5:00-9:00  Vendor Set Up

**Saturday October 7, 2017**

7:30 – 8:30  Breakfast
7:00-8:00  Early Morning Yoga
7:30-8:30  Vendor Set Up

**8:30-10:45 Keynote Address and TAEE Updates**

11:00-12:00 Breakout Sessions:
   - The Great Garbage Patch in a Bottle
   - Activities for the Anthropocene
   - Goin' Buggy in the Classroom
12:00-12:45 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Breakout Sessions:
- Starting Out Wild Training
- Colorado River Alliance Evolving Bilingual Programming for Our Water Future

1:00-3:00 Short Course:
- Something about Soil

2:00-3:00 Breakout Sessions:
- Trade Nature to Build Connections
- Research for Program Improvement

3:30-4:30 Breakout Sessions:
- Gone Fishin’....For TEKS!

3:30-5:30 Breakout Sessions:
- Inside Out & Outside In: Making Connections in Place Based Education
- Instilling Community Pride of Place Through Service Learning

3:30-5:30 Canoeing/Free Time

4:30-5:30 Yoga

6:00 – 7:00 Dinner

7:00 Concert in amphitheater. Silent Auction closes after concert, time TBD.

Sunday October 9, 2016

7:30 – 8:30 Breakfast

8:30-9:30 Breakout Session:
- Activities to teach about pollination in the classroom and beyond
- Celebrate Earth Day

8:30-10:30 Breakout Sessions:
- Redeemer School: Nature on the Playground
- On the Wing with Kids

9:00-5:00 Field Trip – LBJ Wildflower Center – reduced admission for TAAEE Conference attendees

9:30-10:30 Breakout Session:
- Celebrate Earth Day

10:00-12:00 Field Trip - Habitat Conservation Plans for the Environmental Educator

10:30 – 11:30 Breakout Session
- Loose Parts in Nature Play
- ELP Presentation
- STEM and Sustainability
Session Descriptions

Friday Short Courses

Cert 101: How to become a Texas Certified Environmental Educator - This presentation will provide an overview of how you can be recognized as a Texas Certified Environmental Educator and will include the goals of the program, application and review process, and required outcomes. The Texas Certified Environmental Educator (TCEE) Program encourages professional development in EE, acknowledges educators committed to environmental stewardship of Texas’s natural resources, and establishes standards for of knowledge, skills, and experience that highly qualified Environmental Educators in Texas should be able to demonstrate. The following question will be addressed: What is certification? What are the goals of the program? What are the benefits of certification? Who should apply? What are the costs of certification? and How are the portfolios reviewed?
Christine Moseley, UTSA Emeritus Professor,
Lisa Brown, Sam Houston State, Associate Professor

Interested in Becoming a Texas Certified Environmental Educator Application Reviewer for TAEE? - Do you have skills in teacher preparation in EE, assessment, and/or the NAAEE Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators? Learn the benefits and expectations to become a peer reviewer and how reviewers will be selected and prepared. Members of the TAEE TCEE Advisory Committee will deliver training in the EE standards and the TCEE portfolio review process for those TAEE members who would like to serve on a peer review team when applicants submit their portfolios for review.
Christine Moseley, UTSA, Emeritus Professor,
Marti Copeland, Dallas Zoo

Using Transects to Measure Biodiversity - Participants will use one-meter-square transects to sample diverse flora on the campus of Camp Young Judea. Using the Shannon-Weiner Index, the biodiversity of competing transects will be calculated and compared. Learning outcomes from this activity include: constructing one-meter transects from pvc material; selecting areas of study for biodiversity; choosing methods of counting forbs; calculating a biodiversity index using the Shannon Weiner method; investigating reasons for changes or differences in biodiversity; applications to a high school setting; and recommendations for alternatives to the lesson to accommodate different campus needs. This activity is relevant to environmental science and environmental systems.
Meredith Fox, Oliver Wendell Holmes High School, Northside ISD, San Antonio

Investigate Carbon and Climate with Project Learning Tree’s New E-Unit for Grades 6-8 - Perhaps more than any other environmental issue, the topic of climate change challenges educators to accurately convey data, reveal assumptions, and engage critical-thinking skills. Project Learning Tree’s Carbon & Climate E-Unit provides activities and resources to help educators meet these challenges, by introducing students to some of the complex issues involved in climate change. Participate in hands-on activities and leave with online resources to help you introduce students to the challenging and complex issue of climate change. At the conclusion of the workshop, funded by the EPA/NAAEE ee360 grant, participants will receive free access to the online unit. Laptop recommended.
Misty Bowie, Texas Project Learning Tree
**Saturday, October 7, 2017**

**The Great Garbage Patch in a Bottle** - A new trend in education is flooding many elementary classrooms...including mine! The trend is STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading & Writing, Engineering, Art, and Math). Come “float” with us for an hour of fun to create an easy-to-implement Science ocean model, and gain an idea incorporating Engineering, Art, and plastic bags in a project. Session participants will learn how they can use STREAM while teaching students about man-made pollution in the ocean ecosystem with a focus on the Great Garbage Patch. This session will be fun, informative, interactive, and include some make and take activities that use recycled items most people have in their homes.

_Amy Kamata, North East ISD, San Antonio Water System-CORE_

**Activities for the Anthropocene** - Scientists are now referring to our current geological age as “The Anthropocene” to emphasize the impact that humans have had on the land, seas, climate and wildlife over the past 200 years. In this hands-on session, discover classroom activities and interactive online resources to help students explore different aspects of the Anthropocene including human population growth, climate change, changes in biodiversity and land use. Combine history and environmental science in this hands-on session exploring how humans have shaped the earth and atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution.

_Christine Moseley, Ph.D., UTSA, Emeritus Professor; Traci Kelly_

**Use of Research for Program Improvement** – The purpose of this presentation is to share how research that evaluated the impact of student participation in an outdoor educational field trip experience on academic achievement, beliefs, and personal connections to the environment is being used for program improvement. Research methodology included staff and teacher interviews, observations of teaching, review of lesson materials and STARR standardized test data, and pre/post surveys. Results from a one year study and changes to the curriculum based on the research results will be shared.

_Christine Moseley, Ph.D.; UTSA, Emeritus Professor, Haily Summerford, Audubon Texas, Melissa Paschke, Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, Traci Kelley, UTSA; Caroline Parks, UTSA_

**Starting Out Wild Training** - Starting Out Wild (SOW) is a nature-based curriculum for all educators, parents, informal teachers, and organizations who work with toddlers 1-3 years old. Started in San Antonio in 2013, SOW follows a framework of best practices for infant and toddler growth and development. Upon attending this session, participants will receive access to over 20 SOW lessons and resources online and a list of excellent toddler books and art activity ideas and hands-on activities that emphasize concepts covered in the SOW curriculum.

_Susan Campbell and Nicole McLeod, City of San Antonio, Parks and Recreation Natural Area_
**Something about Soil** - What’s the difference between sand and humus, or permeability and porosity? What do rocks have to do with soil composition? How do those N, P, K and pH kits work? Intimidated by the soil and ag content? Want new data collection labs? If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, you need to come get dirty with a pedologist. We will discuss basic soil, geology and agriculture vocabulary and concepts for applicable Earth & Space, Environmental Science and 8th grade TEKS. We will model various data collection labs, including: a common fertilizer/soil test kit for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and pH; a test for permeability and porosity with limestone and marble; a soil-building & bean growing activity with sand, silt, clay and humus. Activities are student-centered and educators will gain a fresh perspective on different ways to incorporate new ideas in their content.

**Jody Gibson and Alicia Mein-Johnson, Energy Institute High School, Houston ISD**

**Colorado River Alliance Evolving Bilingual Programming for Our Water Future** – Bilingual environmental education programming in the Texas Colorado River watershed is imperative to its long-term vitality. The Colorado River Alliance provides students environmental education programs that engender awareness about the Texas Colorado River. To overcome language barriers towards learning for Hispanic students, the Alliance took progressive steps to evolve a STEM-based field trip program to support native Spanish speakers. We’ll explore steps taken and lessons learned to evolve our Elementary program into a bilingual one. We’ll discuss planning, curriculum translation, plus volunteer and client recruiting.

**Daniela Pennycook, Colorado River Alliance**

**Trade Nature to Build Connections** - Children’s pockets seem to magically attract nature items of all types. Pebbles, seeds, leaves, twigs, acorns, and untold numbers of odds and ends fill those pockets daily. Nature Trade programs use those items to reinforce natural curiosity through memorable and meaningful interactions. For 8 years The Austin Nature & Science Center has been home to the Trade Counter in the Naturalist Workshop. This interactive program builds on children's natural curiosity to introduce the study of natural sciences. In this workshop we will discuss examples of Trade Counter programs, the basic requirements to have a successful Trade Counter, and the benefits of Trade Counters at your site. We will also collect our own nature items and model the trade experience.

**Jennifer Chapman, City of Austin Parks - Austin Nature & Science Center**

**Goin’ Buggy in the Classroom** – Join the Caldwell Zoo for a fun hands-on presentation using live insects in a classroom setting. Reinforce TEKS as your and students enjoy hands-on "experiments" with live insects (not harming the insects, of course). Using Madagascar hissing cockroaches, meal worms and crickets, children can learn basic insect characteristics, become acquainted with larval responses, discover habitat preferences and understand the scientific method while having an up-close experience with harmless hexapods.

**Linda Kunze, Caldwell Zoo**

**Inside Out & Outside In: Making Connections in Place Based Education** – Come play with us! As we play outside participants will experience and understand the work of a playful nature-based learning program. We will engage in hands-on outdoor activities and make connections to indoor extensions as we build a model of our space and unpack the learning and teaching of the activities. In conclusion, we will lead a discussion of the experiences using educational theories and examples from a nature-based preschool. The session will be of interest to all who work with nature-based learning for children.

**Linda Charlton and Deepti Kharod, Cibolo Nature Center, Boerne, Texas**
**Gone Fishin’….For TEKS!** - Merge TEKS, student interests’ surveys and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Volunteer Angler Instructor program to develop an instructional path that includes stream mechanics, entomology/metamorphosis, organisms in their environment, data analysis, community building, and art! Teachers will learn basic knot tying skills, fishing safety, ethics, and long-lens lesson design related to integration of math and science TEKS.

**Trevor Hance, Laurel Mountain Elementary, Austin ISD**

**Instilling Community Pride of Place Through Service Learning** - Keep Austin Beautiful utilizes a combination of education and service to develop empowerment and deep environmental connection among its adult and youth volunteers. This presentation will help other educators better understand our model, why it is particularly effective, and provide guidelines for how they can implement similar projects in their programming. This approach includes an integration of place-based teaching and how the environment and community play into a particular service project’s objectives. We will also provide logistics for service projects with adult and youth volunteers. After discussion, we will have hands-on stations where participants will have the opportunity to get outside and do service work firsthand.

**Sarah McConnon and Alecia Casper; Keep Austin Beautiful**

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**Sunday October 8th**

**Redeemer School: Nature on the Playground** – Play is indispensable to self-regulation and growth; nature essential to physical and mental health and environmental literacy. Research will prepare participants to combat the current emphasis upon inflexible academics, high-stake testing and the abandonment of recess at our country’s schools. Dana Keyburn with Redeemer Lutheran School will share the history of Dr. Joe Frost UT/Redeemer Lutheran School’s longest-running study of playgrounds and their impact upon children’s physical, cognitive and social growth. At the conclusion of the presentation, a review of the funding, curricula and maintenance resources available to schools that wish to initiate a similar program will be discussed.

**Danna Keyburn, Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin, Texas**

**Activities to teach about pollination in the classroom and beyond** - In response to the recent decline in pollinator populations, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service created activities to teach kids and adults about pollination, cross-pollination and how honeybees communicate. These activities are used in tandem with information on why pollinators are important to our ecosystem and how to help pollinators (and other insects) found in their backyard. The session will provide participants with three hands-on activities that can introduce pollinators to people.

**Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**
Celebrate Earth Day! - Earth Day Fiesta is a big deal at Martin Elementary School! Come learn, explore, and take away ideas on how your school can celebrate Earth Day in a fun, engaging way. Teachers will make and take examples of our activities. Attendees will leave the session with a clear framework on how their organization can plan and execute an Earth Day celebration using recycled materials. As environmental educators, Earth Day gives us a student audience completely focused on the environment. We should use it to celebrate our Earth and to encourage our students to be good stewards of the environment.

Rubi deHoyos and Mandy Ferrell; Jim G. Martin Elementary, Northside ISD, San Antonio

On the Wing with Kids - Studies show kids who spend time in nature are healthier, happier, and smarter, with some doctors even prescribing time outdoors. Come and explore birds as the perfect way to engage and connect kids with nature and the outdoors and to get their brains and bodies moving. The first half of the session will take place indoors with attendees exploring a toolbox of activities and teaching tips as well as a chance to put these into practice for themselves. The session culminates in a friendly competition on our migration obstacle course.

Niki Lake, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, San Antonio, Texas

Loose Parts in Nature Play – Looking for an inexpensive play-based way to bring children and families into nature? Consider loose parts nature play. This activity is a fabulous introduction into Nature for “uninitiated” families, as well as confidence building unstructured play for your adventurous families. Learn the research behind why Loose Parts Nature Play is beneficial, different ways to involve guests in Loose Parts Nature Play, tips for facilitation, as well as a guide to getting started. You will also be given a chance to participate in Loose Parts Nature Play with materials brought in by the presenter.

Jennifer Chapman; City of Austin Parks, Austin Nature & Science Center

STEM and Sustainability: Cultivate Eco-Literacy with STEM-Based Activities - Re-imagine the school building and grounds, not as a container for education, but as a learning tool and laboratory for applied STEM education! In this interactive workshop, educators will experience easy-to-implement lessons that engage students in local sustainability challenges and empower them to take action. Educators will be given free access to a number of lessons that they can begin using with their students right away. Lessons will include a hands-on introduction to sustainability, a data collection activity to calculate flow rates from a leaky faucet, and a waste eco-audit.

Sarayu Adeni; Ecorise
Field Trip Descriptions

Self-guided Visit: Discover the fun of science at the Science Mill in Johnson City! This family destination offers a fun, interactive learning environment for all ages. Through cutting-edge exhibits, games and programs, the non-profit science museum expands understand and appreciation of science in everyday life.

The mission of the Science Mill is to ignite the curiosity, ambition, innovation and problem-solving potential of the next generation through an innovative, immersive experience that enhances the community’s understanding of, and appreciation for, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Housed in an historic 1880s mill, the Science Mill features more than 40 interactive, world-class exhibits, a 3D theater, and an on-site café. Students can log on after their visit for more information about careers as scientists, engineers, researchers and technology leaders of tomorrow. Visit http://sciencemill.org/ for information on hours, special events, field trips and summer camps.

When: Friday, October 6
Where: Hill Country Science Mill
101 South Lady Bird Lane
Johnson City, TX 78636
Cost: $7.00 Self-Guided tour
Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Private Cave Tour. In the heart of the Texas Hill Country lies an astonishing place called Westcave Preserve, a 76-acre nature preserve and environmental education facility in western Travis County, near Austin, that provides a sanctuary for the flora and fauna of surprisingly diverse ecosystems. Prepare yourself for the majestic beauty of Westcave, a unique Texas Hill Country nature preserve that will leave you breathless! Expert-guides will take you on a tour from an arid savanna through a limestone crevice into a sheltered canyon of lush plant life. At the head of the canyon stands Westcave, with a stunning 40-foot waterfall replenishing an emerald pool below. http://westcave.org/

When: Friday October 6, 2017
Where: West Cave Outdoor Discovery Center
24814 Hamilton Pool Road
Round Mountain, TX 78663
Cost: $12.00
Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Sign up during conference registration. Westcave is 28 miles north of Camp Young Judaea.
**Brewery Tour:** Meet up at the Real Ale Brewing Company for a tour of the Tap Room and Beers before the conference begins. Since 1996, Real Ale has grown from a small family operation making beer in the basement of an antique store in downtown Blanco to a brewery of 55+ people making some of the highest quality craft beer in the state. They make their beer with as little processing as possible. In addition to being unfiltered and unpasteurized, they never use preservatives or artificial colors. They start with water from the nearby Blanco River and the highest quality ingredients.

https://realalebrewing.com

**When:** Friday, October 6, 2017

**Where:** Real Ale Brewing Company
231 San Saba Court
Blanco, TX 78606
830-833-2534

**Time:** Free tours Friday 1pm and 3:00 pm
Tap Room: Friday 11am – 7pm
Sunday 12pm – 5pm

**Cost:** Free visit. Beer may be purchased on site. Beer may not be purchased to take away. No food service available but outside food is permitted. TAEE will not provide food.

Sign up during conference registration. Real Ale is 26 miles west of Camp Young Judaea.

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**Self-guided Tour:** The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s 279 acres are a mix of cultivated gardens, an arboretum, managed natural areas and wildlands that straddle the Edwards Plateau and Texas Blackland Prairies ecoregions. Visit their sustainable gardens displaying 650 species of Texas native plants and explore natural areas on more than 2 miles of trails. Their landscapes and buildings reflect their purpose to conserve native plants, create sustainable landscapes and conserve resources.

https://www.wildflower.org

**When:** Friday, October 6 & Sunday October 8

**Where:** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
4801 LaCrosse Ave
Austin, TX 78739
512-232-0100

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Cost:** $9.00 Self-guided tour
Some Arboretums offer reciprocal member admission.
Check your local arboretum membership for details.
If you plan to use a reciprocal admission do not sign up for field trip during conference registration.

Sign up during conference registration.

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**Guided Walk of Landa Lake and Comal River**— Grab a cup of coffee and join Environmental Educator Zach Martin as you walk and discover the environmental projects taking place around Landa Lake and the Comal River in New Braunfels. Learn about the latest Habitat Conservation Plan for the region and how these projects can be taught in the classroom. Educational opportunities for elementary, middle and high schools students and community involvement will be included in the discussion. Learn about the latest scientific research by universities on projects for endangered species and the overall ecosystem.

**When:** Sunday, October 8

**Where:** 101 Golf Course Road, New Braunfels, TX 78130

**Time:** 10:00 – 12:00

New Braunfels is 30 miles south of CYJ.
Other options in Waco if you are coming from North Texas. No sign up required.

**Waco Mammoth National Monument**  
Visit the newest unit of National Park Service in Texas

On July 10, 2015, President Barack Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation making the Waco Mammoth Site a new unit of the National Park System. This paleontological site represents the nation’s only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Columbian mammoths. Visitors can view "in situ" fossils including female mammoths, a bull mammoth, and a camel that lived approximately 67,000 years ago. [https://www.nps.gov/waco](https://www.nps.gov/waco)

Open daily 9am – 5pm  
Guided tours $4 - $5

6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive  
Waco, TX 76708

Directions: From I-35 North, take exit 339 and head west on Lake Shore Drive. Turn right on Steinbeck Bend Drive and travel 1.5 miles to the Monument. From I-35 South, take exit 335C and head northwest on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Continue straight onto Steinbeck Bend Drive and travel 1.5 miles to the Monument.

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**Homestead Craft Village and Farm**

In Waco  
608 Dry Creek Rd.  
Waco, TX  76705

Free Self-guided tours  
Village is open 10 am – 6 pm Monday – Saturday  
[www.homesteadheritage.com](http://www.homesteadheritage.com)  
No Sign-up required.
TAEE Officers and Board Members

TAEE is accepting nominations for Board volunteers. Complete the volunteer form by going to www.tae.org or click here volunteer form

To contact any of these Texas EE Leaders, send email to info@taee.org

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